

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been canceled. New claims 16-29 have been added. Accordingly, claims 16-29 are currently pending in the application and correspond to claims 16-29 that were filed, but not entered in the parent application.

The specification and abstract have been amended as in the parent.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) in the parent application as being unpatentable over Haff et al in view of Torii et al and Dias et al. Claims 18-21 and 29 were also rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haff, Torii, and Dias as applied to claim 16 above and further in view of official notice. Claims 22-28 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haff et al in view of Torii et al. These rejections are traversed as follows.

According to the present invention, at the time of re-purchase of digital contents, the digital contents are delivered again only by selection without having to re-input customer information, or the like (see page 3, lines 2-14 of the specification). For this purpose, at the time of re-purchase, digital contents and redelivery of that which is

desired are selected from a personal using conditions list of digital contents provided to a customer. The selected digital contents are sold based on a usage right (e.g., referring to conditions for using the digital contents) of the selected digital contents (see page 4, lines 12-28 and page 5, line 2 to page 6, line 1 of the specification). Therefore, according to the present invention, a purchaser's (or user's) right (usage right) of downloading digital contents is managed such that a purchaser can download desired digital contents without re-inputting customer information, or the like.

None of the cited references disclose these features of the present invention. According to Torii et al, when a center receives, from a user terminal, judgment contents as well as a refund request, the center examines the judgment contents. If the information contained therein is valid, the center permits a refund of the payment of the software to the user (see column 3, lines 12-32 and column 4, lines 4-36). Therefore, Torii et al's system is directed to preventing a user from returning software which the user falsely purchased and then attempted to request a refund.

On the other hand, the present invention is directed to a sales method in which a user is permitted to download or access digital contents by using a purchaser's right (e.g., a

period when the user can download or access such digital contents) after a user has purchased the digital contents. Thus, Torii et al has not applicability to the present invention.

Dias et al disclose a system in which a plurality of servers provide virtual stores on the Web. If a client purchases articles from servers, information such as protocol information are exchanged among the servers to perform coordinated actions (see column 1, line 56 to column 2, line 54 and Fig. 1). Thus, Dias et al's disclosure is directed toward a method of coordinating servers to permit shopping.

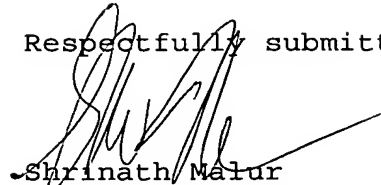
On the other hand, the present invention is directed to the selling of a right to permit a user (or purchaser) to utilize digital contents. Therefore, Dias et al also has little applicability to the presently claimed invention.

Finally, Haff et al disclose securities for charges, authentication, and the like, that occur at the time of a file transfer in an environment such as the internet in which a number of computers are interconnected (see Fig. 2). Haff et al's disclosure is directed to connection control and dynamic allocation of a data port in transferring a file among computers. As such, the disclosure of Haff et al also has very little applicability to the presently claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

Applications submit that all of the claims are patentable and request examination.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 15, 2004